

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRAVDA SHARPLY CRITICIZES THE SOVIET PHILOSOPHICAL
ESTABLISHMENT

1. SUMMARY. A LENGTHY, UNSIGNED ARTICLE IN THE MIDDLE PAGES OF PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 19 BLASTS THE INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY SPECIFICALLY AND SOVIET PHILOSOPHERS GENERALLY FOR FAILING TO MEET FUNDAMENTAL TASKS SET BY THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE. NO ONE IS CRITICIZED BY NAME, BUT PRAVDA'S SHARPNESS SUGGESTS THAT PERSONNEL CHANGES AT THE INSTITUTE MAY BE IN THE OFFING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BASIC PROBLEM, SAYS PRAVDA, IS A LACK OF PURPOSEFUL, CAREFULLY RESEARCHED WORK ON CARDINAL PROBLEMS OF DIALECTICAL AND HISTORICAL MATERIALISM AND THE APPLICATION OF MARXISM-LENINISM TO VITAL QUESTIONS STEMMING FROM CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT. IN PARTICULAR, PHILOSOPHERS HAVE TENDED TO MOVE INTO RELATIVELY SPECIFIC BRANCHES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, CAUSING "AN UNJUSTIFIED WEAKENING OF WORK ON THE GENERAL THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF HISTORICAL MATERIALISM."

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3. THE ARTICLE IMPLIES THE EXISTENCE OF AN INFLUENTIAL, INTOLERANT CLIQUE AMONG SOVIET PHILOSOPHERS. IT CONDEMNS PRETENSIONS TO POSSESSING A MONOPOLY OF WISDOM, CLANNISHNESS, AND OVER-CRITICISM WHICH THWARTS CREATIVE THINKING AND IS COMFORTABLE ONLY FOR INCOMPETENTS. IT ALSO CRITICIZES IDEOLOGICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FLABBINESS AND "EROSION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH LEADS TO THEORETICAL AND POLITICAL MISTAKES."

4. COMMENT. THE IMAGE THIS ARTICLE CONJURES UP IS EXTENSIVE DRY-ROT AT THE THEORETICAL CORE OF SOVIET MARXISM WHICH HAS CAUSED ABLE YOUNG SOCIAL SCIENTISTS TO OPT FOR SPECIALIZATION IN THE MORE CONCRETE AND LESS POLITICIZED BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO VERIFY THIS IMAGE WITH OUT SOVIET CONTACTS.
MATLOCK

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